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conced.

2.(AMENDED) A cables arrester, according to claim 1, wherein:

said means comprises bridging means bridging across an intermediate portion of said
conduit.

a2

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(AMENDED) A cables arrester, according to claim 1, further including:

means engaged with [said cables of] said plurality of cables [thereof] for strain-relieving
said plurality of cables.

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 2, and 7 are amended herein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 1-9 stand objected to because claim 1 recites improper grammar. This objection is
no longer applicable as claim 1 has been amended to recite: *a conduit for conducting an
energized fluid therethrough*. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 1-9 is
respectfully urged.

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CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

This rejection is no longer applicable as claim 1 has been amended to recite: *a conduit for conducting and said conduit for holding said plurality of cables*. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §112, second paragraph rejection is respectfully urged.

CLAIMS REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 3,280,908 to Todd. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 calls for a conduit for conducting an energized fluid therethrough; a plurality of power cables confined within said conduit; and means removably fixed in said conduit for holding said plurality of cables in spaced-apart disposition across said conduit.

In contrast, the conduit 82 identified in Todd by the Office Action, is actually one of three "spider frames" that supports three vertically disposed guide sleeves 86. Each guide sleeve 86 slidably embraces a guide cable 29. See column 3, lines 64-71. Neither the spider frame 82 nor the guide sleeve 86 conducts an energized fluid therethrough as does the conduit claimed in the present invention.

Further, the plurality of power cables 70 in FIG. 2C are not confined within the "conduit" 82 as alleged in the Office Action. In FIG. 2C, the power cables 70 are confined within conduits 62 which are clustered about a conductor tube 60 as described in column 3, lines 25-49.

Still further, the Office Action incorrectly states that means 90 is removably fixed to the

conduit 82 in FIG. 1. It can be clearly seen in FIG. 1 that means 90 (gang coupling units) are not remotely associated with the conduit 82. As best seen in FIGS. 2C and 2D, means 90 couple multiple sections of power cables 70, conduits 62, and conductor tubes 60 as described in column 4, lines 4-9.

More importantly, even if means 90 were removably fixed to the conduit 82 as stated in the Office Action, such a structure would still not meet the language of claim 1. Specifically, claim 1 calls for *means removably fixed in said conduit*. Clearly the gang coupling units 90 are not removably fixed in a conduit as claimed.

In view of the above, the invention recited in claim 1 is patentable over Todd. Claims 2-4 and 7-8 are also patentable over Todd by virtue of their dependence from patentable base claim 1. Moreover, claims 2-4 and 7-8 recite other features which are clearly not taught by Todd.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of claims 1-4 and 7-8 using Todd is respectfully urged.

CLAIMS REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5-6 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Todd. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claims 5-6 and 9 depend from patentable base claim 1, therefore, the arguments set forth above with respect to claim 1 also apply to claims 5-6 and 9. Hence, claims 5-6 and 9 are patentable over Todd.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 5-6 and 9 using Todd is respectfully urged.

PRIOR ART MADE OF RECORD AND NOT RELIED UPON

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is deemed to neither disclose nor suggest the claimed invention.

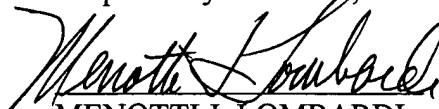
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all outstanding issues have been addressed herein and that claims 1-9 are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions or there matters whose resolution may be advanced by a telephone call, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

FEES

No fee is believed due as a result of this communication. The Commissioner, however, is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 09-0949.

Respectfully submitted,



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